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OLL 84-3438/1
13 September 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on the Philippines for the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

1. On 13 September 1984, the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was briefed on the Communist insurgency in the Philippines by CIA, INR, and DIA. The briefers were [redacted] Assistant National Intelligence Officer for East Asia; Frank McNeil, Deputy Director of INR; and [redacted] DIO for East Asia. The briefing was chaired by Subcommittee Chairman Frank H. Murkowski (R., AK). Other senators present were John Glenn (D., OH) and, briefly, Claiborne Pell (D., RI). The briefing followed the format and topics used in a briefing for the Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on 12 September 1984. A transcript was taken of the SECRET level briefing. (C)

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2. [redacted] introduced the other briefers and explained that INR would cover questions 1-5; DIA would respond to questions 6-12 and 22-24; CIA would answer questions 13-21. Mr. McNeil began with a political overview that touched on the strengths and weaknesses of the Marcos regime, the May 1984 parliamentary elections, and the Agrava Commission that investigated the 1983 Aquino assassination. Mr. Sloane discussed the growth of the Communist New People's Army (NPA), public response to the NPA, and government efforts to deal with the insurgency. [redacted] covered [redacted] the Philippines, the economic situation, and corruption in the government and First Family. (C)

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3. The briefing was followed by questions from Senators Murkowski and Glenn. These dealt with the eventual succession question, the outlook for the 1987 elections, economic steps in connection with IMF requirements, NPA sources of support, the reaction of neighboring nations to the NPA rise, and any potential threat to US military bases in the Philippines. The Senators asked questions about US policy toward the Philippines and were told the briefers, as intelligence analysts, were not able to respond in this area. The briefing concluded with no follow-up matters.

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